

REMARKS

Claims 21 and 23-26 are presented for examination. Claims 21 and 23 are allowed.

Claim 24 has been amended to more clearly recite the claimed subject matter. As discussed below, the amendment to claim 24 raises no new issues and should be entered under 37 CFR 116 because the amendment complies with requirements of form expressly set forth in the previous Office Action, and would not require an additional search and/or consideration.

Claims 24-26 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yamagata.

Independent claim 24 recites a semiconductor device comprising:

- a substrate in which a circuit exists, and
- a power supply system supplying a potential of said substrate.

The power supply system switches between a first case in which the substrate potential satisfies a first voltage condition in the forward direction with respect to the conductivity of source-drain of a transistor and a second case in which the substrate potential satisfies a second voltage condition of a value smaller than that of the first voltage condition.

In the previous Office Action, the Examiner noted that the claimed language that recites the switching of the power supply system “does not necessarily means (sic) the power supply to the substrate must be changed from one level to another level.” Accordingly, the Examiner found the claimed language to be unclear.

To comply with the Examiner’s request, claim 24 has been amended to more clearly recite the claimed invention.

In particular, claim 24 has been amended to recite that the power supply system switches power supply to the substrate between the first and second cases recited in the claim.

Further, it is noted that no new issue is added because the amendment is made in response to the Examiner's remark. In addition, the original claim 24 indicates that the power supply system supplies a potential of the substrate. Accordingly, one skilled in the art would understand that the switching of the power supply system in the manner recited in the original claim 24, involves switching of the power supply to the substrate.

Therefore, the present amendment would not require an additional search and/or consideration.

As indicated in the 37 CFR 116(b), after a final rejection, amendments may be made complying with any requirement of form expressly set forth in the previous Office action. Accordingly, the present amendment to claim 24 should be entered under 37 CFR 116.

Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that the claimed subject matter is clearly defined over Yamagata.

In the previous Response to the Office Action, the Applicant submitted that FIG. 34 of Yamagata shows a configuration in which the **constant** voltage Vcc is supplied to the substrate. Therefore, by contrast with the subject matter of claim 24, the substrate voltage of the Yamagata reference is not switched.

In response, the Examiner noted that the claimed language does not clearly recite switching of the power supply to the substrate.

The amended claim 24 clearly recites switching power supply to the substrate between a first case in which the substrate potential satisfies a first voltage condition in the forward direction with respect to the conductivity of source-drain of a transistor and a second case in which the substrate potential satisfies a second voltage condition of a value smaller than that of the first voltage condition.

Accordingly, the amended claim 24 is clearly defined over Yamagata, which does not disclose the power supply system that switches power supply to the substrate.

Dependent claims 25 and 26 are defined over the prior art at least for the reasons presented above in connection with the independent claim 24.

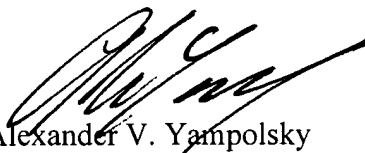
Entry of the amendment to claim 24 under 37 CFR § 1.116 is respectfully requested because the amendment complies with the requirement of form expressly set forth in the previous Office Action.

In view of the foregoing, and in summary, claims 21 and 24-26 are considered to be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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